



Gospel of John 1-12

Let The Light Shine

'Light' as a metaphor for 'Jesus the Word' makes a powerful image of the purpose and nature of God's message of love and grace to mankind.

A. Bringing the Light *John 1:6-8*

1. Sent from God: [:6-7] John the Baptist was SENT from God and had a specific mission—to be a witness to the coming of the Messiah.

2. Through him: [:7] Note that the 'him' in this verse refers to John the Baptist. In other words, like Moses who was called and sent by God to lead His people...John is called and sent by God to tell the world that the Messiah (the Light) was coming. If the Messiah was never 'announced' no one could believe—through John's ministry 'all' will have a chance to believe. *How many will see the Light through you?*

3. John was NOT the Light: [:8] Because of the nature of John's ministry some thought he was the Light. The Gospel makes it clear that John was only sent to bear witness to the light.

B. Rejecting the Light *John 1:9-11*

1. The True Light: [:9] John makes use of the word 'true' in his Gospel. True Light (:9), true worshipers (4:23), true bread from heaven (6:32), true vine (15:1) and true God (7:28; 17:3).

True: Greek 'alēthinos' means "real." The manna was from God; but Jesus is the true bread, the ultimate and therefore the genuine bread from heaven. Any reader of the Old Testament would know that the Law and Wisdom give light (cf. on 8:12), but John's point is that the Word who came into the world is the Light, the true Light, the genuine and ultimate self-disclosure of God to man.

2. The Light comes into the world: [:9] This is an act distinct from creation—the "...true Light that gives light to every man was coming into the world." (NIV)

3. The Light rejected: [:10-11] The world had enough general revelation (see Rom 1) to 'know' the Light. The Jews had more specific revelation as to their coming Messiah—but they did not 'receive' Him.

C. Accepting the Light *John 1:12-13*

1. Receiving and believing: [:12] Though 'His own did not receive Him' many will receive Him. Believing in His name is more than the character of the person it is the person himself.

2. God gives the power to become His children: [:12] To those who displayed faith in receiving and believing in the Light—the Word (God) gave the power to become children of God. *In John* the believer becomes a 'child' of God, but only Jesus is the 'son' of God. *Paul*, describes both Jesus and the believer as 'son' of God, but believers are 'sons' only by adoption. Thus both writers presume a distinction between the 'sonship' of believers and the unique 'sonship' of Jesus.

NOTE: A matter of the heart: *John 2:23-25*. Here is a case where many believed in His name because of the miracles that Jesus did. But He did not commit Himself to them—or according to John 1:12 never gave them the power to become His children. The believer must make a true confession of faith—but it is God who does the work of salvation.

3. Born of His will: [:13] No one is born a Christian since 'believing' is a part of becoming a disciple of Jesus—a Christian or Messianic believer. Heritage and race, even the Jewish race, are irrelevant to spiritual birth. Spiritual birth is not the product of sexual desire, 'the will of the flesh' and it is certainly not the result of a husband or wife's will. **New birth is, finally, nothing other than an act of God.**

John 1:6-13 (NKJV)

Bringing the Light

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.

8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

Rejecting the Light

9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

Accepting the Light

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.